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(WITH A FOCUS ON THE CHINESE)

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TRAINING OF FOREIGN AIR PERSONNEL - 1945.

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Training of foreign air crew personnel continued to be a significant phase of the activity of the Army Air Forces throughout the year 1945. By 1 February 1946 this training had been markedly reduced, however, for by that date the only non-Latin American program being conducted was that for the Chinese. This heavy reduction was due to the termination of use of Lend-Lease funds for foreign training.

Additional training contracted in 1945 tended to be minor. It consisted in part of a few additions and amendments to Latin American programs. Of greater consequence were the amendments made to the Chinese program. This program was substantially increased during the early months of 1945. By late April 1945 the commitment of the Army Air Forces to train heavy bomber crews had been increased from 42 to 100, and the 960 non-pilot crew program was also expanded into an 114 medium bombardment crew program. The goal for photo reconnaissance crews was increased at the same time from 27 to 39. Technician training goals had been increased by 700, and an additional increase of 104 technicians was approved prior to V-J day.

More important than any of these increases, however, was a general overall plan for a postwar Chinese Air Force, which was conceived during the

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summer of 1945 by Lieutenant General Albert C. Wedemeyer, Commanding General of the CBI theater, and was tentatively approved by the War Department. This plan, the "Palmyra" plan, envisioned the expansion of the Chinese Air Force from a strength of approximately six and one-half groups at the date of termination of the war to a strength of five wing headquarters, one air service group, one heavy bombardment group, four medium bombardment groups, two photo reconnaissance squadrons, and four transport squadrons. It was estimated that accomplishment of the plan would require training 1000 pilots, 1400 aircrew, and 1000 technicians over and above all past programs. (3)

Following the conclusion of the European war the War Department reconsidered the extent and potential usefulness of its foreign training programs. Under provisions of Policy Memorandum Number 21 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Operational Plans Division of the General Staff announced on 21 June 1945 that ~~foreign~~ training for foreign nations was to be undertaken only when their personnel could qualify as: (4)

"Those being trained for the war against Japan.

"Those being trained to further United States policy in the Western hemisphere.

"Those who come under the provisions of post-war policies as such policies are determined."

3

Even previous to this time the Army Air Forces had moved toward the termination of the two largest foreign programs, those of Great Britain and France. On 10 May 1945, Brigadier General E. M. Powers, International Officer for the Army Air Forces, informed the British that after 1 June 1945 no new British students were to be accepted for training in the four British pilot training schools still operating in the United States. ⁽⁵⁾ These four schools had been in existence since June 1945. They had been operated by the British in conformity with the British training pattern, but for supplies and for certain services, such as medical care, they were dependent upon personnel of the Army Air Forces. They were also financed by Lend-Lease funds. At the request of the British, plans for closing the British schools were temporarily postponed in date ~~so~~ as to permit the entrance of a last British class at the end of August 1945 and the completion of its training. ⁽⁶⁾ Late in August, however, Headquarters, Army Air Forces informed the Training Command that Course 28, which was scheduled to begin on 25 August, would not start, and that all British training would be terminated as of 11 September. ⁽⁷⁾ On this date a program which had been in being since June 1941 was brought to a successful conclusion.

In that period it had supplied the British with a total of 6921 pilot graduates. (8)

Hardly two weeks after the British had ^{first} been informed of the prospective termination of their program, the Foreign Liaison Office, G-2, notified the

Chief of the French Air Mission that no new increments of French air personnel

would be accepted for training. (9) As in the case of the British, the dominant

reason for this decision seems to have been that use of British or French air

personnel was not contemplated in the Pacific theater. Even more vigorously

than the British, the French protested the proposed termination of their training. (10)

Their argument was based particularly on their great need for trained air

personnel and the inadequacy of facilities in France for conducting the wide-

spread training they considered necessary. The aid of the Department of State

was enlisted by the French in the endeavor to prolong their status as beneficiaries

^{of}
for air training under Lend-Lease. (11)

Despite the intervention of the Department of State, the War Department moved early in November to terminate all training under provisions of Lend-Lease

as of 30 November 1945. (12) As a result of continued French protests and the

interest of the Department of State, the matter of ending French training was

carried ultimately to the White House for a decision. On 5 December 1945

5

President Truman informed Secretary of State James F. Byrnes that the training of French air personnel in the United States would be carried on subject to two provisions. These were that all French training in the United States be concluded by 1 March 1946, and that the French pay the costs of their training (\$3,000,000) in the period after 30 November 1945. When the French proved unable to meet the costs of training, all French training was terminated as of 18 January 1946.

The third major training program, that of the Chinese, was likewise scheduled for termination as of 30 November 1945. Because of this decision by the War Department, Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek cabled President Truman in mid-November to request that training of those Chinese air personnel who or on their way to were in the United States on V-J day be completed. He also requested that an additional 1220 Chinese whom the United States had contracted to train but who had not left China by V-J day be accepted for training. No mention was made of fulfilling the provisions of the "Palmyra" plan.

President Truman agreed to this proposal subject to the establishment of some new arrangements superseding Lend-Lease for payment ^{for} of all training

16

received by the Chinese in the period after 30 November 1945. ⁽¹⁶⁾ This new arrangement has yet to be arrived at. As a result of this agreement, on 30 November 1945 there were 2200 Chinese in training in the United States. An additional 1220 were to arrive thereafter. ⁽¹⁷⁾ The Chinese program, following the termination of the British and French programs, thus became the largest of all programs and larger than all Latin American training programs combined.

Other programs affected adversely by War Department action terminating the use of Lend-Lease funds for training purposes as of 30 November were the Turkish program and certain of the Latin American programs. The training of 33 Turks who were in ~~RAF~~ Army Air Force pilot courses ended as of the above date. ⁽¹⁸⁾ Latin American training was affected less drastically. After 30 November Latin American training could still be carried on free of charge under provisions of the "Goodwill Act" of 24 June 1938. ^{Thereafter, however,} Auxiliary costs, such as housing, subsistence, medical care, and transportation, formerly chargeable to Lend-Lease under certain of the Latin American programs (particularly Brazil and Mexico) had to be paid by the specific Latin American country receiving training ⁽¹⁹⁾ there-
after.

Problems in foreign training during 1945 tended to remain much the

17
same as in earlier years. ⁽²⁰⁾ Chief among them was that of levelling the language barrier so as to permit establishment of an effective medium of communication between instructor and student. This problem was particularly pressing in the case of the French and Chinese training programs. In its solution great reliance was placed on the use of graduates in the French program for the instruction of other French students. As of 3 October 1945, 109 French ⁽²¹⁾ instructors were being used in the French training program.

At the beginning of the year 1945 the ratio of Mandarin-speaking ⁽²²⁾ Chinese interpreters to students was 1 to 25. In the endeavor to increase the number of interpreters, which was markedly inadequate, the Army Air Forces tried several means. It made efforts to have transferred to itself the Chinese nationals who had been drafted into the American Army and who were serving as enlisted men in the Army Ground and ⁽²³⁾ Army Service Forces. It also sought to recruit interpreters from Chinese still on student status in the United States and used a list of names supplied by the Department of State for that purpose. ⁽²⁴⁾

The greatest alleviation came not from these sources, however, but as the result of the arrival of additional interpreters from China. Fifty interpreters arrived from the CBI theater early in July 1945, after having been declared sur-

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(75) plus in that theater. As a result of their arrival, the efficiency of instruction tended to improve during the latter months of 1945.

Progress toward solution of another problem long present in foreign training was made in June 1945 when Mexican training was transferred from Foster Field, Victoria, Texas, to Dothan Field, Alabama. In apparent disregard of local prejudice, the Army Air Forces had been conducting training of Latin American nationals predominantly in Texas since 1941. During 1944 there had been some minor incidents between Texans and Mexican nationals receiving training which threatened to jeopardize both the effectiveness of training and the further development of international goodwill. During April 1945 two more incidents occurred. In one case a restaurant at Victoria, Texas, refused to serve a party of Mexican officers, and in the other ^{case} wives of Mexican officers experienced difficulty in finding suitable housing in that community. (26) The transfer of Mexican training to Dothan Field, Alabama, was designed to prevent the occurrence of any more such incidents. (27)

Although ~~fore~~ training tended to taper off sharply during the latter months of 1945, the year was nevertheless a major one in foreign training.

During March 1945, when foreign training was close to its maximum, a total air

19

personnel of 5200 from thirteen different countries were receiving training.

Of these 2120 were Chinese, 1750 French, and 1100 British. ⁽²⁸⁾ Statistics for the year show a total of 4754 individuals who graduated from air training courses, 2940 of ~~whom~~ were trained as pilots. Of the larger number, 1511 were graduates of the British operated pilot training schools, 1433 were French graduates of Army Air Force schools, and 1363 were Chinese graduates of Army Air Force schools. ⁽²⁹⁾ The number of Latin American graduates was 361.

The extent of future foreign training by the Army Air Forces is yet to be determined. At present it seems limited to finishing that Chinese training agreed to prior to V-J day and to Latin American training offered under terms of the Act of 24 June 1938. ^{planned} Quotas for this latter training total 648 for the first eight months of 1938. Of this number, 160 are to be trained as pilots, 132 as ground officers, 10 as medical officers, and 346 ⁽³⁰⁾ as enlisted technicians.

Although foreign training is thus much diminished from its size during the war ~~period~~, it seems quite possible that this training may continue to maintain considerable importance in the post-war ^{period} ~~training of the Army Air Forces~~. While the purpose present during the war of training air personnel

20

of our Allies for use in an immediate military situation will be gone, certain purposes of larger scope will remain. The purpose of building up goodwill toward the United States, so well recognized in Latin American training, may well be served by additional legislation permitting the United States to offer to train foreign air personnel of any nation when such training seems to be in the national interest.

The rendering of substantial foreign training will also have the further advantage of assisting the Army Air Forces in keeping its training plant near peak efficiency and in maintaining a larger training establishment than would be necessary for training^{ing} solely American military personnel. This "extra" capacity for foreign training would be a safety factor in that it would provide means for a somewhat more rapid expansion of the Army Air Forces in case of emergency than would otherwise be possible. These two reasons for foreign training--of broad national interest and of special interest to the Army Air Forces--need to be properly evaluated. It ^{is quite} ~~would seem~~ possible that after such evaluation ^{the} ~~a~~ continuing use of personnel, equipment, and facilities of the Army Air Forces for training foreign air personnel ^{of both Latin American and non-Latin American nations} ~~would be~~ ^{with some} of considerable benefit both to the nation and to its military air establishment.

FOOTNOTES

- ① Memo, Brig Gen J. S. Bradley, Acting ACoS, G-3 to CG, AAF, 24 Apr 1945.

350.2B Tng of Chinese Stus.

- ② Ltr, Hq AAF, to CG, TRC, 3 July 1945. Tng 9 China.

- ③ Memo, AC/AS-5 to CofAS, 19 Sept 1945. 350.2B Tng of Chinese Stus.

- ④ R&R, OPD to G-2, 21 June 1945. 350.2 Tng of Chinese Stus.

- ⑤ Ltr, Brig Gen E. M. Powers, to Air Marshal Douglas Colyer, RAF Delegation,

Washington, DC, 10 May 1945. Foreign Sec files, AC/AS-3.

- ⑥ Ltr, Air Marshal Douglas Colyer to Brig Gen E. M. Powers, 25 May 1945, and

Ltr, Brig Gen E. M. Powers to Air Marshal Douglas Colyer, 29 May 1945. Foreign

Sec files, AC/AS-3.

- ⑦ Daily Diary, Hq TRC, 27 Aug 1945. AFSHO files.

- ⑧ See statistical chart, "Graduates from British Flying Training Schools from

Establishment...Through 11 Sept 1945..." in Appendix to History of Training of

Foreign Nationals by the Army Air Forces, 1939-1945. AFSHO files.

- ⑨ Ltr, Lt Col W. F. Brazeau, Foreign Liaison Office, G-2, to Maj Gen Charles Luguët,

25 May 1945. 350.2 Tng of Foreign Officers.

- ⑩ Memo, Maj Gen Charles Luguët to Gen G. C. Marshall, CofS, 12 June 1945. 350.2 Tng

of Foreign Stus.

11 Memo, Department of State to War Department, 20 July 1945. 350.2 Tng of Foreign

Stus. See also later memo, Secretary of State to Secretary of War, 19 Nov

1945. Tng 9 France.

12 Memo, AC/AS-3 for Gen H. H. Arnold, 1 Nov 1945. AFSHO files.

~~Daily Diary, AC/AS-3, Hq AAF, 1 Nov 1945. AFSHO files~~

13 Memo, President Truman, to James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State, 5 Dec 1945. ^{2nd} ~~Sec~~

also Memo, Maj Gen I. H. Edwards, ACofS, G-3 to CG, AAF, 12 Dec 1945. Foreign

Sec files, AC/AS-3.

14 Ltr, Hq AAF, to CG, Continental Air Forces, 18 Jan 1946. Foreign Sec files, ~~AC~~

AC/AS-3.

15 Memo, Admiral W. D. Leahy, CofS to the President, to CG, AAF, with incls, 20

Nov 1945. Foreign Sec files, AC/AS-3.

16 Ibid.

17 Memo, Gen H. H. Arnold, to Admiral W. D. Leahy, 23 Nov 1945. Foreign Sec files,

AC/AS-3.

18 Memo, AC/AS-3, for Gen H. H. Arnold, 23 Nov 1945. AFSHO files.

19 Memo, Col Desmond O'Keefe, Air Judge Advocate to Gen H. H. Arnold, 8 Nov 1945.

AFSHO files.

20 See History of Training of Foreign Nationals by the Army Air Forces, 1939-1945.

AFSHO files.

21 Ltr, Maj Gen Charles Luguët, Chief, French Air Mission, Washington, DC, to

Lt Gen J. E. Hull, Deputy CofS, 3 Oct 1945. Tng 9 France.

22 History of TRC, 7 July 1943 to 31 Dec 1944, p 1696.

23 Ltr, Hq 78th Flying Tng Wg, to CG, AAF, 2 Feb 1945, through channels with inds.

350.2 Tng of Chinese Stus.

24 Ltr, Hq AAF to Director, Selective Service, Washington, DC, 20 Mar 1945. Tng 9

China.

25 Ltr, Hq AAF to Director, Selective Service, Washington, DC, 12 July 1945. Tng

9 China.

26 Memo for Record, Maj Gen W. F. Kraus, CG, CFTC, Randolph Fld, Tex, 18 Apr 1945;

also Ltr Hq, TRC to CG, CFTC, 22 June 1945-with inds. 350.2 Tng of Foreign Stus.

27 Memo, Maj Gen R. L. Walsh, Special Asst to CG, AAF, to Lt Gen I. C. Eaker,

CofAS, 1 June 1945. 350.2 Tng of Foreign Stus.

28 Ltr, Brig Gen C. H. Caldwell, Atting AC/AS Tng, to Lt Gen B. M. Giles, CofAS, 19

Mar 1945. 350.2 Tng of Foreign Stus.

29 See statistical charts in Appendix to History of Training of Foreign Nationals

by the Army Air Forces, 1939-1945. AFSHO files

4
③ Chart: "Proposed Quotas for Latin American Air Force Personnel in US AAF Schools,

1 Jan 1946 to 30 Aug 1946," 18 Dec 1945. Foreign Sec files, AC/AS-3.